

**GARY TOMPKINS  
COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
7TH DISTRICT**



**Proudly serving:**

Lee Twp	Clarence Twp
Sheridan Twp	Albion Twp
Homer Twp	Clarendon Twp
City of Albion	Village of Homer

# YOUR COUNTY CONNECTION

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**DECEMBER 2020**

## COUNTY ACTIONS/DISCUSSION

### December 3 Meeting

- 1.) Commissioner Frisbie reported out the on Parks & Rec committee that Calhoun County was awarded \$193,400 from the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources Trust Fund grant for Kimball Pines development. Additionally the Village of Homer was awarded \$101,000 for the Iron Belle Trail Village of Homer Gap Development .
- 2.) Approved the CARES Act funding grant agreement between the county & State of Michigan Strategic Fund including portions allocated to the Battle Creek Homeless Shelter for acquisition and equipping of the building located at 209 E. Michigan Ave. in Battle Creek. The county is using up to \$125,000 to provide partial funding towards the purchase price of \$275,000.
- 3.) Approved the 2021 FY Calhoun County Budget and appropriations resolutions. Total expenditures of \$45.95 million vs. revenues of \$46.1 million. More detail can be found on pages 5 & 6.
- 4.) Approved several renewal (3) & new (4) appointments to the Workforce Development board for Michigan Works! Southwest .

### December 17 Meeting

- 1.) Julie Pioch, MSU Extension Coordinator was on hand to provide the 2020 Annual report. 235 individuals participated in programming which was encouraging concerning the challenges with COVID.
- 2.) Approved the MSU Extension 2021 work plan as presented (No change from previous year).
- 3.) Scheduled the reorganizational session for the board of Commissioners to be January 7, 2021 at 7pm via virtual format.
- 4.) Approved appointments to the County Land Bank Authority thru 12/31/22 for Lenn Reid, Derek King & John Hart. Lynn Ward Gray is thru 12/31/24.
- 5.) Approved the Senior Millage funded programs for a 3 year period (21-23) for Senior Centers, Carwell Services Inc., Senior Services Inc, & Senior Care Partners PACE.
- 6.) Approved a motion (4-3) to approve contract patchers for the 2021 year. More detail on this vote and progress surrounding can be found on page 4.
- 7.) Approved an authorization for the County Treasurer/County Land Bank to make to changes to projects funded and to increase the allocation to the land bank by \$130,000. This will allow for properties slated to be demolished as projected.

## Upcoming Meetings

**(January)**



**Meetings may be held in virtual format.**

Homer Village	1/4	7pm
Albion City		7pm
County Commissioners meeting	1/7	7pm
Senior Millage Committee	1/8	8am
Clarence Twp	1/11	7pm
Albion Twp		730pm
Clarendon Twp		730pm
Albion-Homer SAPS	1/12	9am
Homer Twp		7pm
Trailway Alliance	1/13	8am
Lee Twp		7pm
Albion City	1/19	7pm
Sheridan Twp		7pm
County Commissioners meeting	1/21	7pm
Forks Senior Center Board	1/27	1pm
Drug Free Community Grant Committee	1/8 & 1/22	9am

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## ROAD/BRIDGE UPDATES

- 1.) Stay tuned in the coming months for details on progress being made in this area.

## OTHER HAPPENINGS

- 1.) Participated in an initial brainstorming meeting on senior social isolation on Dec. 2. Tom Hunsdorfer, member of the Senior Millage Committee, called for a meeting to discuss the issues surrounding social isolation among seniors especially since COVID-19 has made many home bound. Further meeting will be scheduled with more data & input.
- 2.) Albion-Homer Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition Drug Free Grant meeting on Dec. 4. From reviewing the narrative to discussion on the updated timeline, we were pleasantly provided information that a significant amount of the funding for the Coalition has been restored by the Office of Recovery Oriented Systems of Care who has put special emphasis on prevention.
- 3.) Eastern Calhoun County Mental Health/Substance Abuse Taskforce met virtually on Dec. 8. Nancy King of HOPE Network is a Certified Life, Trauma and Recovery Coach and is currently the Executive Director of Community Outreach and Prevention Network and Program Manager for Kalamazoo Harm Reduction. Nancy spoke on opioid addiction and services available to those afflicted. Maggie Honaker discussed a grant opportunity that has been applied for in conjunction with Nancy King as trainer for the community in regards to reduction of harm issues.
- 4.) Albion-Homer United Way met virtually on Dec. 11. We discussed items involving potential new members, accepted a resignation & approved a grant request from the Homer Library in the amount of \$1,250. This amount will allow for the purchase of 6 hot spots and 4 Kindle Fire tablets to help close some of the technology divide that exists in the community. This is important as well in terms of virtual learning and the lack of internet in rural areas.
- 5.) The first social isolation sub-committee Meeting on Dec. 17 was held virtually. This committee was created to see how Senior Millage can use its resources to address social isolation among older adults. We discussed some ideas including a volunteer network & developing a network of community organizations that can be collaborated with to assist older adults with short-term needs. The goal is to provide a plan to be submitted to the Senior Millage Committee by March 1, 2021. Further meetings will be taking place.
- 7.) Albion-Homer Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition Drug Free Grant meeting on Dec. 18. Main focus surrounded the project narrative for the grant including the 5 key components. Sub-assignments were made to break down each area to work on. Additionally the 12 month action plan will be worked on assist in completing the other areas.

Dec. 22 – Respects paid to Calhoun County Road Dept.  
Employee Tom Hughes  
(Marshall)



## 7th District in Focus



Dec. 10 – Senior Food Distribution  
(Homer)



Dec. 16 Portrayed the Grinch at Lillian  
Fletcher Elementary School  
(Homer)



Dec. 22– Swearing in Oath of Office  
(Marshall)

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## COMMITTEE CORNER



### COMMITTEES/ORGANIZATIONS

#### SERVING:

**1.) Senior Millage Committee met Dec. 4. Items discussed/actions taken included;**

A.) Senior Services Manager Helen Guzzo provided an update on the status of the budget and provided insight into what programs have been affected by COVID-19.

B.) Had a discussion involving reducing social isolation among older adults. From that discussion a reducing social isolation committee was created. During this COVID era, social isolation has been even greater among seniors. Our 1<sup>st</sup> sub-committee meeting was this afternoon with the goal to present recommendations on how to address social isolation to the full committee by March 2021.

**2.) Calhoun County Trailway Alliance, scheduled for Dec. 9, was canceled due to lack of agenda items.**

**3.) Calhoun County Planning Commission met Dec. 14. Items discussed/actions taken included;**

A.) Recommended approval for PA116 applications for residents in Clarence, Newton & Pennfield Twp.

B.) Recommended for approval Lee townships zoning ordinance amendment in regards to Marijuana Regulations.

C.) Recommended for approval with suggestions Newton Townships zoning ordinance amendment.

D.) Held a discussion concerning odor issues concerning Marijuana grow facilities and what if or any ordinances are addressing.

- *Senior Millage Allocation Committee (SMAC) - Chair*
- *Calhoun County Planning Commission*
- *Calhoun County Trailway Alliance*
- *Homer Lake Mgmt. Board -Chair, Secretary & Admin.*
- *Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWBH) Substance Abuse SUD Oversight Policy Board*
- *Potawatomi Resource Conservation & Development Council*
- *Forks Senior Center Board - Policy Chair*
- *Homer Downtown Development Authority*
- *Albion/Homer Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition— Co-Chair*
- *Albion/Homer United Way— President*
- *VFW Auxiliary Post 9411-Homer*
- *County Board of Commissioners Parliamentarian*
- *SLF/Blair Scholarship Review Committee*
- *Homer Athletic Hall of Fame Committee President*
- *Albion City Infrastructure Advisory Committee.*
- *Albion Suicide Prevention Coalition*
- *Albion COVID-19 Task Force*
- *Albion/Homer Drug Free Grant Co-Chair*

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## CONTRACTING PATCHING VOTE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS & POSITIVE PROGRESS MADE ON MULTIPLE FRONTS

Before the motion to approve the contract patchers was approved, I offered a motion to postpone the vote until Jan. 7 for the purposes of getting additional information ( cost comparative between sub-contracting & our current road staff performing the function documented) so that we could be better informed when voting. The motion was supported by Commissioner Smith and subsequently voted down 2-5. Leading up to meeting to vote, while conducting an evaluation on the item, I identified two distinct areas in which I asked the following questions.

### Periodic Safety Inspections

Q.) Do we (Road Dept) conduct periodic safety inspections/check on the contract patch vehicles and if so could I see documentation? It was indicated in the body of the document that the inspections were performed.

A.) It was indicated that no documentation existed and that from this point forward safety inspections will be conducted and a form was provided which will be used in documenting.

**End Result: Safety inspections will be performed, documented and accountability will be ensured.**

### Performance Evaluation of Contract Patchers

Q.) Do we have an evaluation system for this? If we do, who performs this and what is the oversight of the contractors (validating work, quality).

A.) As suggested by Comm. Tompkins, we need to do a more complete job of documenting what we are inspecting and developing a fair and objective measure of crew's performance as a balance of both quantity and quality. During this offseason we will work with CCRD/ JCDOT to develop a more effective measurement tool that promotes accountability and accurately documents pothole patching crew performance.

**End Result: A measurement tool evaluating performance to ensure we only have the most competent contractors and we have a way to ensure the public that quality is our goal. These evaluations will be documented and I will be following up to inquire on the status of the tool and for the evaluations to be performed.**

As for the final vote, my reason for voting yes to continue to use contract patchers are as follows:

1.) If we are going to turn down the usage of the contract patchers, we must have a firm plan in place to ensure that the patching will be done completely and thoroughly with our existing crew. No documentation of an alternative plan was presented & no definitive, documented cost comparative was available (reason I asked for a postponement). The road dept. administration indicated that they could not get all the necessary other work completed including patching with the existing crew. Again with no documentation, we could have postponed to get the confirmation and why I called for. **Decisions are always made on facts & data, not emotions.**

During this process, my questioning has led to ensuring documented safety inspections and creation of a evaluation tool which will measure quality and not just quantity.

### One additional Item:

With the sudden passing of one of our veteran road workers while on the job, I called for an investigation into the events surrounding the situation and what countermeasures will be put into place to prevent such an event from happening again.

**End Result: Managing Director John Midgley has reinstated starting immediately the normal operational requirement that all road workers report to one of the garages at the beginning and end of each shift. We will be evaluating this impact on response times and the safety of our workers, to determine whether it is appropriate to return to the COVID-19 temporary reporting protocol.**

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**CALHOUN COUNTY 2021 FY BUDGET DETAIL  
(AS PASSED BY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON 12/3/20)**

**Overview:**

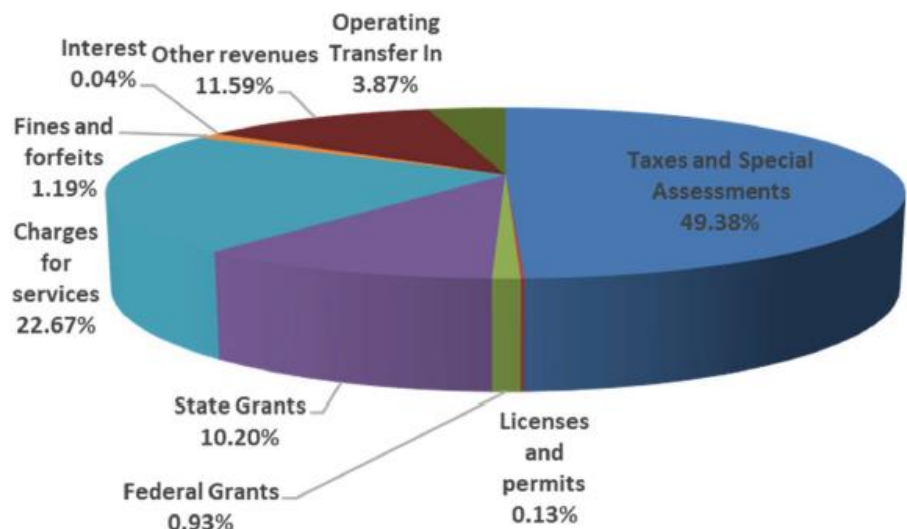
Total Revenues	\$	46,100,992
Total Expenditures	\$	45,960,551
Net Deposit to FB	\$	140,441
% of FB to Prior Year Exp.		11.40%

**Revenues:**

Assumptions: Overall a net 2.5% decrease from 2020 amended budget.

- State Revenue Sharing flat at \$3M
- Expected 2.7% increase in Property values and \$2.0M for State reimbursement of Personal Property Tax losses, reflecting a total 3.3% increase in property tax and special assessment revenues
- Annual \$1.5M transfer from the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund (DTRF), conditioned upon the Treasurer's declared surplus in the fund.
- Public Safety revenues adjusted to 2019 daily boarding levels and current contracts including increased rates for BICE and Livonia detainees.
- A continued flat trend in Court costs and fines
- Continued recoup of overhead through Cost Allocation Plan charges to Special Revenue Funds

**% of Revenues  
By Category**



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## 2021 Budget Detail Continued

### Expenditures:

Assumptions: Overall net 2.4% decrease from 2020 amended budget.

-Includes 2% pay scale increases (cost of living adjustments or COLA) for County nonunion employees and union contracts not yet finalized for 2021, 2½ - 5% COLA for pay scale adjustments and step increases for negotiated union contracts

- No projected increase in employee health insurance claims or prescription costs, resulting in a minimal 1.5% increase to the budgeted employer portion of employee health insurance cost over 2020; no increase to employee premium rates

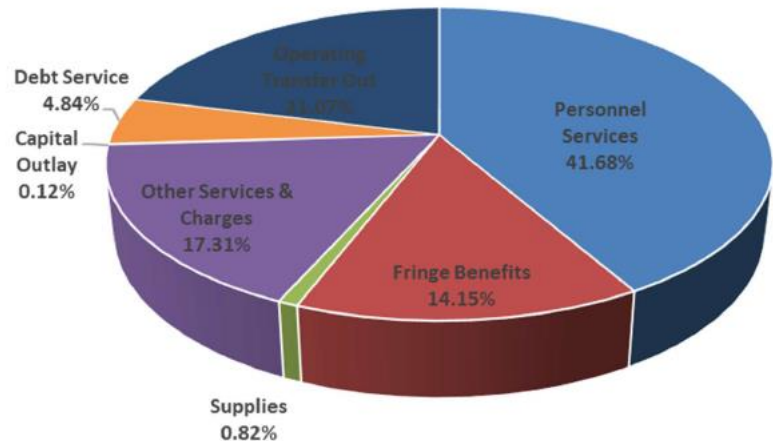
- Continued blended rate for budgeted cost of Health Insurance benefits (Hospitalization, Dental and Vision); charging a flat rate to departments for a participating employee regardless of employee plan selection

- \$500K Capital Funding provided through use of CIP fund balance instead of General Fund transfer

- \$400K expenditure contingency line 6

-1.8% inflationary factor for most other expenses

### % of Expenditures By Category



### Largest other funds:

- Health Department
  - Adopted Sept 2020
  - \$9.8M expenditure budget
  - 12% General Fund Appropriation – Required Maintenance of Effort
- Road Department
  - \$32.7M expenditure budget
  - No General Fund Appropriation
- Child Care Fund
  - \$5.8M expenditure budget
  - 50% Required County Match
- Friend of the Court
  - \$5.1M expenditure budget
  - 33% Required County Match

### County Millage Rates for 2021

5.3779 mills Allocated - General Operating \$ 19,672,681

0.2482 mills Voted - Medical Care Facility \$ 925,102

0.2000 mills Voted – Parks \$ 756,651

0.7452 mills Voted - Senior Services \$ 2,783,495

.1000 mills Voted – Veterans \$ 373,523

**\*\*All millage rates remain unchanged with the exception of the parks millage which is new from the August 2020 vote\*\***

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